Increase in Frequency

2592. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to increasing the frequency of EMU service between Asansol and Barddhaman section of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that frequency of EMU services can be done by using the existing rakes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) :(a) and (b) Provision of additional train services including on Asansol-Barddhaman sector is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, resource availability and traffic justification.

With effect from 01.8.97 one pair of MEMU service has been provided on Asansol-Barddhaman section in lieu of a conventional service.

(c) to (e) The frequency of peak hour train services cannot be increased with existing rakes due to operational difficulties like path constraints and time necessary for maintenance etc.

Reservation for SC/ST in Railways

2593. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide thirty percent reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the railway catering services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which and the manner in which the said reservations are likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reservations (20% for Scheduled Castes and 10% for Scheduled Tribes) will be effected by inviting applications from these categories with immediate effect.

Deposit of Huge Amount

2594. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the huge quantity of granite tiger stone good quality of tiles and quartz deposits huge amount at P.S. Saltora under the district of Bankura in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes Sir. Good quality tiger stone (decroative stones) are available at P.S. Saltora area in Bankura district of West Bengal. Further cherty quartz is also reported from Benageria and Chhotasagara in Bankura district, West Bengal.

(b) Granite being a minor mineral, the grant of mineral concessions for the same is governed by the provisions of Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the respective State Governments. As per information available, Govt. of West Bengal has reserved the area under reference for exploitation by a State Public Sector Undertaking named West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation.

Reduction in Frequency of Rajdhani Express

2595. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the frequency of Rajdhani Express plying between New Delhi and Jammu has been reduced from twice a week to once a week;

(b) if so, the reasos therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received many representations against this step; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No,Sir. The Nizamuddin-Jammu Tawi Rajdhani Express is a weekly train. However, a weekly Summer Special Rajdhani Express was run between Nizamuddin and Jammu Tawi from 19.4.97 to 30.6.97.

(c) and (d) No representations have been received in the regard.

MARR System

2596. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Multi Access Radio Relay systems procured by DOT so far;

(b) the total requirement of DOT of such system by 2001;

(c) whether DoT propose to procure 6000 pieces of this system for the current year;